Privatisation in Calcutta Port

8122. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE. Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether privatisation in the ports sector has made progress in the Calcutta Port Trust;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether privatisation has made any headway in any other ports in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At Haldia Dock Complex two berths have been leased to M/s TISCO and M/s SAIL respectively. At Calcutta Dock System two dry docks have been leased to a private party.

(c) and (d) At the Ports such as Bombay, Kandla, Tuticorin, Visakhapatnam, Madras, New Mangalore and Mormugao maintenance and operation of cargo berths, oil berths, provision of handling equipment, creation of ship repair facilities, storage and despatch facilities etc. have been privatised. These are expected to bring in an investment of Rs. 2,500 crores.

Allocation of Funds for exponsion of Major Ports

8123. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds earmarked by Government for the expansion of major ports;

(b) whether external aid has also been sought for the purrose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the major ports proposed to be expanded under the ports expansion programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) An outlay of Rs. 2984 crores has been provided in Eighth Five Year Plan 1992-97 for various development schemes aiming at expansion of Major Ports.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The outlay of Rs. 2984 crores in Eighth Five Year Plan includes external aid component of Rs. 946 crores.

(d) All the eleven Major Ports namely Calcutta|Haldia, Bombay, Jawaharlal Nehru, Madras, Cochin, Visakhapatnam, Paradip, Kandla, Mormugao, New Mangalore and Tuticorin are covered under the expansion programme.

Theft of Consignments at Paradip Port

8124. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been frequent incidents of theft of consignments in Paradip Port, Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken to curb such incidents;

(c) whether it is a fact that quality of services offered in that port is far from satisfactory; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken to improve the quality of services in that port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has been entrusted to look after the security arrangements in Paradip port. The security arrangements are reviewed from time to time to minimise the incidents of theft from the port premises

etc. Introduction of on foot and mobile patrolling, posting of guards at vulnerable points, surveillance by plain cloth staff and surprise checking at entry and exit points are some of the measures which have been taken by the port to strengthen the security.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. During the last financial year i.e. 1994-95, the port handled 10.12 million tonnes of cargo as against 8.33 million tonnes handled during the year 1993-94, thereby recording a positive variation of approx. 21.5 percent. This shows that the port users had been showing a preference for this port. To improve the efficiency and productivity is a constant endeavour of the port.

Upgradation of State roads in Orissa to National Highways

8125. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the upgradation of some State roads in Orissa to the level of national highways during the 8th Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the state roads identified therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Owing to meagre allocation of funds for National Highways during the 8th Five Year Plan, it is difficult to declare any new National Highway at this stage.

Milease covered by Surface Transport

8126. SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total mileage of the country covered by surface transport as on date;

(b) how many miles are yet to be covered by the surface transport;

(c) what steps have been taken to cover the entire length and breadth of India;

(d) what is the estimated cost in this regard; and

(e) what is the allotment for this purpose in the Budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The Government of India (viz. the Ministry of Surface Transport) is primarily concerned with the development and maintenance of National Highways only. As regards National Highways, the total length of National Highway network in the country at present is 34,058 km.

(b) The addition to the National Highway network is a continuous process and the additions to the network are done keeping in view various factors including the availability of resources.

(c) One of the criteria for declaring any road as National Highway is that the road runs through the length and breadth of the country. As such this aspect is taken care of while declaring any road as a National Highway.

(d) and (e) The overall budget allocation for the development of National Highways includes the provision for the amount required for upgradation of State roads as National Highway network. There is no separate allocation made for this purpose in the budget.

Construction of a road bridge on River Yomuna in Allahabad

8127. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state: